(c) to (e) The defence services have been requested to release this spectrum for growth of public mobile telecom services by shifting some of their wireless links between fixed locations, to alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). The spectrum so released by the Defence services would be allotted for growth of mobile services, to the new as well as existing mobile service providers appropriately.

Low teledensity in India

1243. SHRI VIRENDRA BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teledensity in India is less than twenty per cent whereas in countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and China it is much higher than our teledensity;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of telecom operators;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the details of difficulties in raising the number of operators; and

(e) by when these difficulties would be remedied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The overall teledensity of India is around 20.40% as on 31.07.2007 (latest available). As per International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ICT statistics report (as on December-2006) the teledensity in some Asian countries is given below:

Pakistan	25.32%
Bangladesh	14.03%
Sri Lanka	34.89%
Maldives	98.76%
China	62.62%

(b) to (e) Government has been granting Unified Access Services Licenses to the companies for providing telecom services on first cum first serve basis. Recently, Government has sought TRAI's recommendation on the number of Access Services Providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the Access Services Provider license. Increase in number of service providers for wireless and wireline access telecom services has significantly increased the demand on the limited spectrum resource for wireless access. Till date, TRAI has not submitted its recommendation.

Publicizing of Indian heritage

1244. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postage stamps can play a vital role in publicizing Indian heritage throughout the world through philately;

(b) if so, the number of postage stamps/mail material, commemorative or special, with denomination issued during the last two years depicting past glory of India; and

(c) the plan for philately during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Every commemorative postage stamp issued by the Department of Posts, depicts the contribution made by the subject to the nation. Some of the important commemorative postage stamps, depicting heritage of India, issued during the last two years of 2005-07 are given in the Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) The plan for philately runs according to Calendar year and not the financial year. The stamp issue plan for 2007 is given in the Statement-II

Statement-I

Details of important commemorative postages stamps, depicting heritage of India, issued during the last two years of 2005-2007

SI. No.	Name of the stamp	Denomination in Rs
1-4	Dandi March	5, 5, 5 and 5
5	Children's Day	5
6	M.S. Subbulakshmi	5
7	Pongal	5
8	The Vellore Mutiny-1806	5
9-10	Indo Cyprus: Joint issue Folk Dance	15,15
11-12	Indo-Mongolia: Joint Issue Ancient Horse	15,15
13	Madhya Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry	5
14-15	Children's day	5,5
16	Sandalwood	15

Statement-II

Tentative stamp issue programme for the year 2007

SI. No.	Name of the Stamp	Date of Issue
1	2	3
1	Bimal Roy	08-01-2007

1	2	3
2	Tamil Nadu Cricket Association	26-01-2007
3-6	Fragrance of Roses (Fragrant Stamps) with miniature sheet Bhim Delhi Princess Jawahar Neelam	07-02-2007
7	Manoharbhai Patel	09-02-2007
8-11	Fairs of India Goa Carnival Pushkar Fair Sonepur Mela Baul Festival	27-02-2007
12-15	Women's Day with miniature sheet	08-03-2007
16	Raj Narain	23-03-2007
17	Mehboob Khan	30-03-2007
18	Dr. RM Alagappa Chettiar	06-04-2007
19-24	2550 years of Mahaparinirvana of Buddha with miniature sheet	02-05-2007
25-29	National Parks of India Mudumalai, Tamil Nadu Bandipur, Kamataka Periyar, Kerala Kaziranga, Assam Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh	31-05-2007
30-31	150th Anniversary of First War of Independence with miniature sheet	09-08-2007

1	2	3
32	Mariamalai Adigal	17-08-2007
33	V.G Suryanarayana Sastriar	17-08-2007
34	Saint Vallalar	17-08-2007
35-38	Landmark Bridges of India with miniature sheet Howrah Bridge Mahatma Gandhi Setu Pumbum Bridge Vidyasagar Setu	17-08-2007
39	S.B Chavan	To be decided
40-41	Jasmine (Fragrant Stamp)	To be decided
4245	Indian Railway Stations Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai Howrah Railway Station, Kolkata Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Central Station, Chennai	To be decided
46	Ritwik Ghatak	To be decided
47	J.P Naik	September 2007
48	53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference	September 2007
49-52	Centenary of Satyagraha	02-10-2007
53	Platinum Jubilee for Indian Air Force	08-10-2007
54	4th Military World Games-2007	14-10-2007
55	14-Punjab-250 Years of Raising	24-10-2007
56	Maharashtra Police Academy	October 2007
57	S.D. Burman	October 2007
58	Paramatesh Barua	October 2007
59	Battaqh Ali Ansari	October 2007
60	Tortoise	October 2007
61-62	Children's Day with miniature sheet	14-11-2007

1	2	3
63	4 GR-150 Years of Raising	27-11-2007
64	New and Renewable Energy	November 2007
65-67	Rare Animals of North East	Novemher 2007
68	Damodaram Sanjeevaiah	November 2007
69	International Year of Disabled Persons	03-12-2007
70	Water Year 2007	December 2007
71	Larson	December 2007
72	Wilson College, Mumbai	December 2007
73	Mahanamrata Brahmachari	December 2007
74	Daly College, Indore	December 2007
75	Maulana Atikur Rehman Arvi	December 2007
16	Maharshi Burusu Samba Murthy	December 2007
77-80	Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobars	December 2007

Tariff plan for roaming charges

1245. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is planning to cut down the roaming charges (incoming) in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present tariff plan for roaming (incoming and outgoing) in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) (a) No, Sir. BSNL has recently been reduced the roaming charges (in coming) to Re. 1.00/Min. from Rs. 1.75/Min in addition to 300 minutes free incoming calls while roaming under plan-550. Details are given in the Annexure. Moreover, the roaming charges (incoming under other cellular plans range from as low as Rs. 0.65/Min to **a** maximum of Rs. 1.75/Min.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Present tariff plans for roaming (incoming and outgoing) in India under postpaid and pre-paid cellular services of BSNL are given in the Statement.